

Interview with Taylor Pensoneau

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Interviewer: Mark DePue

DePue: I suspect, in the future historians and scholars will be writing reams about Rod Blagojevich, because, in part, it's woven in bizarre ways with Barack Obama's career.

Pensoneau: That's true. That's going to guarantee continued attention in itself. As his trial approaches, interesting to see if his team is successful, for example, in drawing Rahm Emanuel into the equation at some point; they're threatening to. I mean, there was a relationship. Keep in mind that Obama was, what, co-chair of one of his... When a major political figure decides to run personally – this is interesting – I've seen it ever since I've been around. One major figure always will become the co-chair of another major figure's campaign. Then if something goes wrong, they say, well, it was only token or symbolic anyway. And that is true. But, still, the public has the right to some accountability, to some believability, in all of this stuff. If Obama was a major supporter of Blagojevich at one point, as he was, I don't think it's fair to just wink it away and say, Well we all know that's only token anyway. Maybe individuals like you and I and others on the scene know that to be true, but I think the public's entitled to more than that. That's what I think. You then have to say, well then what sincerity is there in a lot of this stuff.